

The Armidale Symphony Orchestra

Violin 1

Errol Russell
(Concertmaster)

Colin Sholl
Marian Barford

Kate Nash
Kate Chapman

Lucette Tolhurst
Lettitia Tolhurst

Violin 2

Gunar Daniel
Maurice Anker

Marie McKenzie
Michelle Guppy

Beth Kenrick
Anne Gates

Violas

Laurie Pulley
Suzanna Powell

Chris Cunningham
Michael Stockwell

Violoncellos

Sue Metcalfe
Rhonda Davey

Camilla Tafra
Claire Chapman

Ian Slater
Doublebasses

Wendy Griffiths
Arlene Fletcher

Flutes

Geoff Derrin
Sharon Davidge

Oboes

Sue Taylor
Rebecca Brine

Clarinets

Chris Garden
Jane Growns

Bassoon

Alex Bell
Rosemary Lloyd

French Horns

Kerry Hawkins
Jodie Winton

Alastair Finco
Bruce Menzies

Trumpets

Frank Logan
Tony Jones

Trombones

Dave Brown
Felix Graser

Margaret Sharpe

Timpani

Stephen Sharpe

Harpichord

Robyn Bradley

The Armidale Choral Society

Sopranos

Celia Ashby, Rosalind Brady, Judith Burns, Mabs Buck, Gillian Carpenter,
Elizabeth Ellis, Mary De Gabriele, Evelyn Griffith, Pat McLean, Marie O'Reilly,
Deirdre Rickards, Roselli Stanley, Karin von Strokirch.

Altos

Gaylia Bigg, Carolyn Birkett, Robyn Bradley, Jenny Bristow, Anne Brown,
Helen Dangar, Marnie French, Sandra Galley, Wendy Huddleston, Sheila Kent,
Delys Middleton, Kaye Mill, Anneke van Mosseveld, Ruth Nicholls, Anne Pullen,
Wendy Roberts, Lynette Schuh, Jenny Sholl, Noeleen Ward, Jenny Warnock,
Deirdre Waters, Alison Wright.

Tenors

John Little, Jeanne Madison, Phil Oxley, David Paterson, Alec Watt.

Basses

Colin Ashby, Kevin Birkett, Ron Edgar, Peter Maddox, Bruce Menzies, Jim Nicholls,
Karl Robertson, David Robins, Brian Seppelt, Bruce Southcott, Alan Williams.

Repetiteur

Robyn Bradley

Assistant Conductors

Bruce Menzies, Wendy Huddleston

Armidale Symphony Orchestra and

Armidale Choral Society

Conductors

David Gee

Bruce Menzies

Soloists

Steve Tafra and Steve Thornycroft (mandolins),

Ireni Utley (soprano), Inge Southcott (mezzo-soprano).

Sam Sakker (tenor), Leon Warnock (bass).

2 pm Sunday 19 November 2006

St Mary's Cathedral

www.armsymph.org

Leonora No. 3 Overture

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Beethoven wrote four separate overtures for his opera Fidelio. The first three of these, now known as Leonora Overtures named after the central character in Fidelio, are more suited to concert hall performances than as preludes to the opera. The Leonora No. 3 Overture is the most popular of the three and is frequently performed as a concert overture. It is also still performed in some productions of Fidelio but not as a prelude.

Concerto for two mandolins

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Allegro, Andante, Allegro.

Conductor Bruce Menzies, **Soloists** Steve Tafta and Steve Thornycroft.

Vivaldi wrote over 500 concertos for a wide range of instruments, including one for solo mandolin and this concerto for two mandolins. It is a fine example of his delightful work.

INTERVAL

Mass in C

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Kyrie Eleison, Gloria in Excelsis, Credo, Sanctus Benedictus, Agnus Dei.

Soloists Ireni Utley (soprano), Inge Southcott (mezzo-soprano), Sam Sakker (tenor), Leon Warnock (baritone).

Beethoven's Mass in C was completed in 1812. Superficially it has more in common with the late Haydn Masses than the gigantic *Missa Solemnis*. However the Mass in C is a hugely significant work and represents considerable development on the works of Haydn. The soloists function as an ensemble and are closely associated with the chorus rather than singing individual arias. The Mass begins with a quiet and contemplative Kyrie. This leads to two huge movements, the joyous Gloria and magnificent Credo. The Sanctus and Crucifixus are particularly moving movements where the listener is transported into the introspective world of Beethoven's struggle with his Catholicism. A dark sounding Agnus Dei leads to a gently hopeful Dona Nobis Pacem. The Mass concludes almost resignedly with a return to the music with which the Kyrie opened.

David Gee

David Gee is a graduate of the Newcastle Conservatorium and University of Newcastle in music and of the Universities of New England and London in education. David is a regular conductor of the Armidale Symphony Orchestra and the Armidale Choral Society. Before moving to Armidale to take up his position as Principal of Armidale High School from which he has recently retired, David had a major involvement as a conductor of opera, oratorio and musicals in Newcastle and Tamworth.

Bruce Menzies

Bruce has conducted the Armidale Symphony Orchestra on many previous occasions, including the recent sell out Gilbert and Sullivan Concerts in collaboration with the Armidale Musical Society. He also plays the french horn in the orchestra.

Steve Tafra and Steve Thornycroft

The two Steves have had a long and fruitful musical association together for over 15 years. They have performed in venues ranging from pubs and clubs to conservatoriums, universities, art galleries and the Sydney Opera House. Among their achievements they have released a CD of Australian music written for them by Armidale composers and in 2006 they performed their own arrangement of Bach's Goldberg variations at the New England Bach Festival. Today's performance is thanks to Steve Thornycroft who came into possession of two mandolins and postulated the question, "Why don't we do the Vivaldi Double Mandolin Concerto?". The answer, "Why not?".

Ireni Utley

Ireni is a member of the Opera Queensland Chorus and gives regular recitals. She studied music and ancient history at the University of Queensland, has completed the Graduate Diploma in Vocal Performance and Graduate Diploma of Opera Performance at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, and is currently completing a Masters of Music Studies in Performance. Ireni has won numerous singing prizes and scholarships and has performed in many oratorios and masses.

Inge Southcott

Prior to moving to Armidale in 2004, Inge sang with Opera Australia as full-time chorus member and minor principal artist for five years. She also understudied many major roles with that company. She now teaches singing and frequently makes solo appearances with both the Armidale Choral Society and the Armidale District Musical Society. Her recent portrayal of Katisha in "The Magic of Gilbert and Sullivan" concert received wide acclaim.

Sam Sakker

Sam is currently completing his third year at the Queensland Conservatorium. He began his vocal studies in the choirs of Sydney Grammar School and before arriving at the Queensland Conservatorium in 2004 he studied for three months in London with Covent Garden's Yvonne Minton. He has performed with the Opera Queensland Chorus and as a frequent soloist in music productions.

Leon Warnock

Leon Warnock was born in Armidale. He studied the violin and was involved in ensembles, orchestras and vocal ensembles at Armidale High School and in the community. In 1993 he began study at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and completed his Bachelor of Music in 1997 and then a Post Graduate Diploma in opera. He is a member of the Opera Queensland Chorus. In 1999 he was awarded "best young singer" at the Melbourne Song Recital Award. He was recently placed second in the prestigious 2006 Sun Aria competition.

Irene Sharpham

Irene Sharpham passed away on Wednesday 29th March this year. She was a very private person whose considerable achievements as a soprano have largely been unheralded. The Armidale Symphony Orchestra and Armidale Choral Society would like to make the occasion of this concert an opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of a person who contributed an enormous amount to music in Australia and overseas.

Irene completed a languages degree at the University of Sydney before concentrating on her singing career. She won major awards including the Shell Aria, the New Zealand Opera Company Scholarship and the Marten Bequest (the first time this bequest was ever given to a singer). She used these scholarships to continue her studies in London with the renowned baritone Otakar Kraus.

An experienced recitalist, opera singer, concert artist and broadcaster, Irene performed extensively throughout the United Kingdom as well as in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. In her time in Armidale she still performed on the national stage working with distinguished Australian artists Lauris Elms, David Miller and Joanne Callinan. Irene's collaboration with Armidale pianist Deidre Rickards provided local audiences with examples of Irene's artistry.

Members of the Armidale music community would like to take this opportunity to remember the local, national and international contributions made to music by Irene Sharpham.

**2006 Christmas Services of Readings and Carols
with the Armidale Combined Churches Choir**

Sunday 17 December at 9.30 am in the Uniting Church

Monday 18 December at 7.30 pm in St. Mary's Cathedral

Singers are very welcome at rehearsals beginning on
Monday 20 November at 7.30 pm in the Uniting Church.

ARMIDALE MUSIC FOUNDATION

10th weekend of music making for orchestral musicians and singers

Friday 9 March – Sunday 11 March 2007

Songs of the Fleet - C.V. Stanford,

Soloist Leon Warnock

Conductor Richard McIntyre OAM

Choral Director Paul Holley (Director of ABC Classic FM Choir of the
Year's prize winning *Birrallee Blokes*)

The Armidale Music Foundation's Annual Choral Weekend provides
an opportunity for instrumental musicians and singers from NSW and
further afield to perform large scale choral works under the guidance
of some of Australia's foremost instrumental and choral tutors.

Details available in the New Year.

For further information contact Bill Driscoll 6772 1349 or
Bruce Menzies 6772 8626.